

Remarks

I. Status of the Application

Claims 13-18 and 92-96 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 19-91 and 97-153 have been withdrawn without prejudice.

Fig. 13 has been amended. Pages 25 and 28 of the specification have been amended as indicated on the preceding pages.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being allegedly based on a disclosure that is not enabling. In addition, claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 depends from claim 13 and further recites “a battery power source, wherein an update of the first information source is halted while the system is drawing power from the battery power source.” Support for this limitation is located at page 28, lines 8-10 of the specification, which states “engine 815 may be programmed to suspend any automated synchronization while computer 803 is running on battery power.” On page 25, lines 21-24, computer 803 is described in one example as a “personal computer (PC).” It is well-known that a personal computer ordinarily contains a battery to provide power to selected components such as the microprocessor.

Nevertheless, to clarify the existing language in the specification, the illustration of computer 803 in Fig. 13 has been amended to include a battery. An annotated marked-up drawing sheet showing the changes to Fig. 13 has been included herewith. A Replacement

Sheet of drawings has been included, as well. The amendments to Fig. 13 do not add new matter, since it is well-known that a typical personal computer contains a battery.

Pages 25 and 28 in the specification have been amended to conform with the revised Fig. 13. Again, no new matter has been added to the specification, for the same reason discussed above.

III. Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-15, 17, 92-94 and 96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,652,789 (Miner). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In one example of an embodiment of the invention, a user of an information assistance service may synchronize the user's contacts and appointments folders with data sources in a personal information management (PIM) software application. For example, the user may update the data stored in a contacts folder with (more recent) information stored by a PIM application. Conventional PIMs include, for example, Microsoft Outlook application, Lotus Notes, etc. Accordingly, one or more folders containing the user's contacts, appointments, to-do lists, notes, email, etc, are stored and maintained by a server, and the user may access the folders directly through a web interface or indirectly through an operator. A user may establish an association between a folder and a selected PIM data source with which the folder is to be synchronized. For example, the user may specify that a selected folder is to be synchronized with the user's data stored in a Lotus Notes application. In addition, the user may specify the frequency of synchronizations, and the direction of information flow between the folder and the associated PIM data source. For example, the user may specify that any

changes to the folder are to be reflected in the associated PIM data source, and/or the other way around.

Miner discloses a communications system for receiving and managing incoming calls to a subscriber. Each subscriber is assigned an electronic assistant, which can manage calls received by the subscriber, give reminder messages to the subscriber, etc. (col. 2, lines 5-67). A subscriber can also use the electronic assistant to create and maintain contact lists (col. 38, lines 52-65).

Claim 13 defines a system for managing at least a first information source, such as a user's contacts folder maintained by an information assistance service, and a second information source, such as a data file maintained via a PIM on the user's computer, for example. Claim 13 requires "a memory for storing data concerning an association of the first information source with the second information source," and "a device for selecting at least one direction of a flow of information between the first information source and the second information source." Claim 13 further requires "an interface for accessing at least one of the first information source and the second information source through a communication connection," and "a processor for updating at least the first information source with information in the second information source in accordance with the direction." Claim 92 is a method claim corresponding to claim 13.

Nowhere does Miner teach or suggest a "selecting at least one direction of a flow of information between the first information source and the second information source," as required by claims 13 and 92. The Examiner points out that Fig. 1 of Miner shows a "contacts 16" icon, and an arrow pointing from the "Contacts 16" icon to a "Persons 18" icon. However, Miner repeatedly makes clear that the arrow in Fig. 1 indicates only that a "Person

18” represents a subset of “Contact 16.” For example, Miner specifies at col. 5, lines 39-41 that “an item may be any one of the following: a schedule 12, a contact 16, (e.g., a person 18, a place 22, or a group 20)...” Accordingly, a “contact 16” may exist in the form of a “person 18,” a “place 22,” or a “group 20.” See also col. 5, lines 58-62. Thus, the arrow does not indicate a “flow of information,” as required by claims 13 and 92. Miner does not, therefore, teach or suggest “selecting at least one direction of a flow of information between the first information source and the second information source,” as claimed.

For the same reasons, Miner fails to teach or suggest “a processor for updating at least the first information source with information in the second information source in accordance with the direction,” as required by claims 13 and 92. None of the other cited references teach or suggest these limitations, either. Accordingly, claim 13 and its dependent claims (14-18), and claim 92 and its dependent claims (93-96), are patentable over the cited art. The dependent claims contain patentable limitations, as well.

IV. Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16 and 95 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Miner in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,065,016 (Stuntebeck). Claims 16 and 95 depend from claims 13 and 92, respectively. For the reasons set forth above, claims 13 and 92 are patentable over the cited art. Therefore, claims 16 and 95 are also patentable over the cited art.

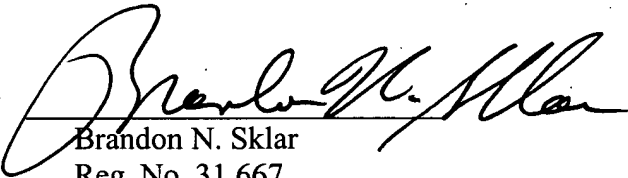
V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 13-18 and 92-96 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brandon N. Sklar", written over a horizontal line.

Brandon N. Sklar
Reg. No. 31,667
212-836-7363

Kaye Scholer LLP
425 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 13 is amended as indicated on the Annotated Marked-up Drawings Sheet which follows.

A Replacement Sheet is also provided.



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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

FIG. 13

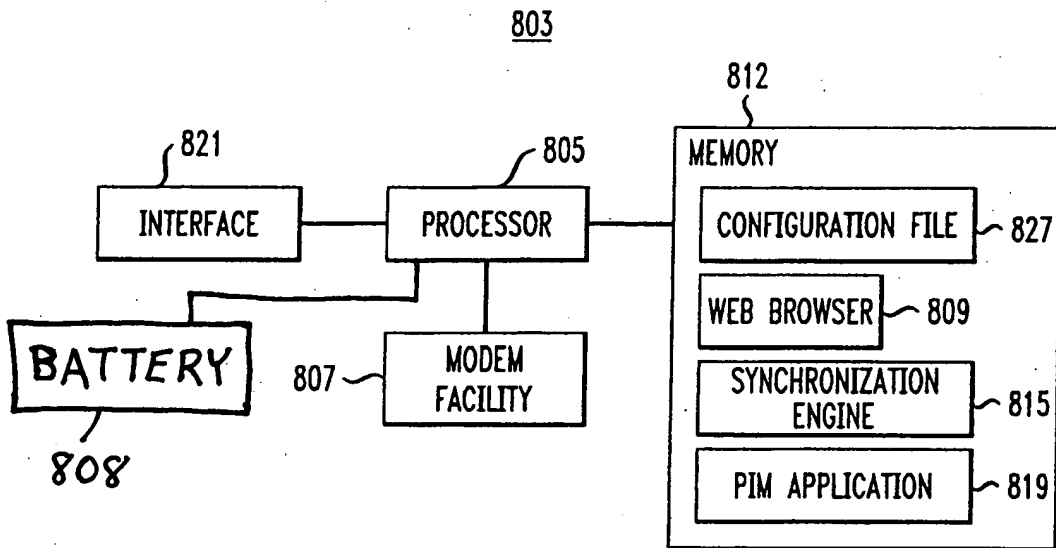


FIG. 14

